



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Watershed Management Study – Upper Mississippi River (Itasca to L&D2)



One of many regulated Mississippi Headwaters Lakes

Contact

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Location/Description

The Upper Mississippi River, from Lake Itasca, Minn. to Lock and Dam 2 at Hastings, Minn., is the area for this study and is a river reach of the Upper Mississippi that is faced with many land and water use development pressures that jeopardize the quality of the resource. This study area is inclusive of the Federal Headwaters Reservoirs and Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn.

A multi-agency partnership is being formed to prepare a comprehensive basin management plan that will address system lake level regulations, water quality, water quantity, and water use issues. For example, degraded river water quality impacts water supplies for St. Cloud, Minn. and Minneapolis, undermines the wild and scenic river quality of the river upstream of St. Cloud and impacts the viability of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area in the Twin Cities. Another major concern is that there is no emergency water supply for the City of Minneapolis in the event of low river flows or river contamination.

Authority

A resolution of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, dated April 15, 1999, provided the authority of this Watershed Management Study.

Status

A Watershed Management Reconnaissance study is now underway. This study is scheduled to be completed in May 2001. The reconnaissance study is likely to show a Federal interest in proceeding into cost-shared Feasibility Studies with a number of non-Federal sponsors. Sponsors identified for the cost-shared Feasibility Study include the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, the Mississippi Headwaters Board, the Metropolitan Council, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The feasibility study will take 4-5 years to complete and it is expected to identify, economically justify, and conceptually design, a variety of Federal water resource projects.

Additional

The Mississippi River has tremendous national historic significance and reflects an ongoing story of the American continent from Native American, to European exploration, to intensive modern multiple uses of this resource. Now there is a growing recognition that economic value to the people of the region is dependant on a healthy Upper Mississippi river environment and that future coordinated and comprehensive land use and water management is critical to continued clean and productive use of the river.

Resource management agencies are attempting to form cooperative partnerships to collect key baseline land use and water data, identify and evaluate basinwide problems and opportunities, and to work together to define meaningful protection and restoration actions that will insure future economic and natural viability of the river

A plan to optimally operate the existing Headwaters Lake/Reservoirs, as a system is to be defined and tribal trust responsibilities also need to be adequately integrated into the future Federal operations. Also, the public and all levels of government recognize that better water quality monitoring and modeling is needed to protect and restore important water resources in Upper Mississippi River Basin.

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs are to be cost shared with the non-Federal sponsor 65%/35% and the operation and maintenance costs are to be the responsibility of the non-Federal sponsor.

General Design	\$2 million
Construction	\$13 million
Allocations through Fiscal Year 2000	\$200,000
Fiscal Year 2001 Funding	\$150,000